New Labour Policy

†577. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has recently considered any proposal to formulate any new labour policy for the labours engaged in the organised and unorganised sectors;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed new labour policy;

(c) to what extent the new rights of labourers would be brought under the purview of new labour policy; and

(d) whether there is also any provision to strengthen their pay structures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Review/updation of Labour Policy is a continuous process so as to ensure its relevance to the emerging needs. The thrust of the Labour Policy during the Ninth Five Year Plan is on consolidation and strengthening of the base created through tripartism for maintaining industrial peace and harmony. The policy parameters include development of a labour policy in tune with the economic policy with a thrust on appropriate employment and wage policy. The policy also aims at strengthening protection of interests of the labour and improving their health and safety in workplace in the organised/ unorganised sectors including proper social security. There are also special programmes to promote employment, develop skills, enhance technological levels and strengthen infrastructure.

Welfare Schemes for Unorganised Tribal and SC Workers

578. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state whether Government are bringing a comprehensive legislation for the social security, health care and employment guarantee of large number of unorganised tribal, scheduled caste, poor workers working in dense forest for plucking of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Salseed, tendupatti, mahua and other forest and minor forest product?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): No such legislation is being contemplated by the Government at present.

Employment and Social Security Measures

579. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in its World Labour Report, 2000 the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has expressed serious concern about absence of unemployment protection and social security measures in the developing countries including India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the existing level of social security measures including special old age provisions and health care schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) ILO's World Labour Report, 2000 examined the vital role played by social protection in supporting, supplementing and replacing market incomes in the event of old age, incapacity for work and unemployment. The Report says that but for those who work in the rural or urban sectors in developing countries, there is hardly any unemployment protection at all. The Report notes that major Asian countries like India have social and health insurance schemes covering millions of workers and their families, but the vast majority of the population in developing countries, including informal sector wage earners and self-employed persons have no social protection whatsoever and suggests that the major focus must be on the extension of the coverage of these workers.

At present, there are two major social security schemes in India, namely, the Employees Provident Fund Scheme and the Employees State Insurance Scheme. However, the benefits of these two schemes are by and large confined to the workers of the organised sector. The